The POPE'S Letter TO THE LORDS IN THE TOWER;

Concerning the Death of the late Lord *Stafford*.

Dearly Beloved SONS, *and moſt Humble* Lords.

WE Greet you well, and ſend you our *Apoſtolick* Benediction, and Condole with you for the loſs of our Noble Son, and Heroick Champion, the Lord *Stafford*, who is now a moſt Glorious Saint in Heaven, and dwells among the moſt bleſſed Martyrs, and we are alſo willing that his *Canonization* be alſo here on Earth, at half Fees; for you muſt know, that according to the Fundamental *Maxim* of this our Court, *Earthly Advantage muſt be made by Heavenly Preferment*: For it is fit that thoſe who ſerve the *Alter*, muſt live by the *Altar*: And it ſhould be an unprecedented Example, not to be found in all the Holy Acts of our Predeceſſors, and would be a moſt ſcandalous Innovation and Example to our Succeſſors, ſhould we deviate any ways from that Fundamental *Maxim*, as the Old Proverb has it, *No Money no Pater-Noſter*; which, as it holds true in ſaying of Prayers, ſo alſo in us, for we ought not to be the Father of *Poverty*, and to bring our *See* to *Beggery*: for though we Write our ſelves *Servus Servorum*, a Servant of Servants, 'tis myſtically meant, of ſuch as ſerve us with their Purſes: but truly our moſt Glorious Name is not *Papa* Father, but *Piſcator* the Fiſher, for we Hook in all we can, and have pretty well filled our Nets, as appears moſt intelligibly by the Fiſhers, or St. *Peters* Patrimony. We have filled our *Calender* with Saints, having two or three for every day of the year: we have filled *Heaven* with Martyrs, we have filled our *Coffers* with *Coyn*, and the *Chriſtian* world with our Terror, Fame, and Authority; and we have filled *Purgatory* with Souls, and *Hell* with Excommunicated *Heretick*s, ſo that we have well uſed our Talent left to St. *Peter*, to become *Fiſhers* of Men, and of what belongs to them.

Do not wonder my dear Sons, that we cauſe our Secretary to Write thus plainly to you, and not in our wonted Stile, full of the plauſible Subtilties of this more Wiſe than Holy Court; for as *Infallibility* is an Inſeperable Adjunct to us, and to our Holy *Chair*, ſo we know that we do not Err, and in that, we would you to underſtand by this our minds plainly, that as it is a moſt glorious preferment to obtain the *Cannonization* of being a *Saint* and *Martyr* here by us on earth, and adds (no doubt) much to the Glory and preferment of the party in Heaven, ſo it is moſt convenient, that our *Maxim* ſhould be here maintained, that our Authority be ſtill unbroken; therefore to come to our Application, my dearly beloved Sons, we adviſe you, if you ſhall deſire the aforeſaid Glorious Exaltation, that before you depart this Life, you take care for the procuring the Sum, according to our Book of Rates, which our Sons the *Prieſts*, or of the holy Order of *Jeſus* can ſhew you, and you ſhall no ſooner have cauſed it to be Remitted hither, but you ſhall find the benefit in *Heaven*, being there Exalted among the *Apoſtles* themſelves, for we have not only St. *Peters* Keys to let in and ſhut out, whom we pleaſe, but alſo to advance or debaſe as we ſee convenint, both in Heaven and in Earth. It was for want of this neceſſary fulfilling of our *Maxim*, *That this Wiſe Court muſt do nothing for nought*; that our Son *Coleman*, nor others, have not yet obtained

ed this Exaltation, tho' the Charges of making a *Priest*, or an ordinary man a *Saint*, be much less than to make a Lord or a *Prince*; and good reason, they being better able to pay, and are more rarely found now adays: And your *Henry* the Sixth lost the preferment through the Covetousness of *Henry* the 7th.

We have condoled the loss of our dear Son the Lord *Stafford*, and we have caused *Zachryma* to be Sung thorow all our Churches, and have imposed a general *Fast* from Pullets and White Broth, thorow the whole City, to express the greatness of our fatherly sorrow, and our selves have abstained one whole Meal, excepting Sweet-meats, to bewail in private, the loss of that Noble Lord and Martyr. All this we have done for your Incouragement, that you may like Men quit your selves, when you shall come to the *Scaffold*, and keep the same road of Innocency as your *predecessors* has done, that you may only *Confess* to your *Priest*, and dye *Confirming*, and strengthning the Holy *Catholick Faith*, that there is no Horrid Plot in *England*, to take away the *Kings Life*, and to set up *our Religion*.

We further have you to wit, That it is our pleasure, that you be no ways Discouraged at the loss of our late *Dearly beloved Son*, and that his Death may not shake you, or the Dreadful name of an *English-Parliament*, for we would incourage your hopes by our *Infallibility* and *Prophetick Spirit*, which still attends on our *Holy See*, that you shall be yet safe, if our Design shall succeed, which we do Assure you, by the *Indefatigable Industry* of our Pious Sons the *Jesuits*, is yet carrying on, and as we dayly understand from them, is yet in a fair way to perfection, for they have assured us of undoubted Hopes, of *Dissolving* your dreadful *Parliament*, by which you may get respite, for in the *Interim*, it will be their *main Business* and care, to lighten the feuds, jealousies and fears, already sowed among the People, and to widen the breaches of Factions and parties, that all may break forth into a Flame and Combustion, and then we doubt not to make our Harvest: Be, I say, therefore of good Courage and Resolution, and be not affrighted at the long-Tail'd *Comet*, nor believe the foolish vulgar, who would have it to Threaten our *Downfall*; but I have consulted a wise *Astrologer*, and my own *Infallibility*, and I aver, it signifies, besides the spoyling the King of *France* his *Ballad*, and the Death of my beloved *Monkie*, the full extirpation of all *Heresie* and *Schism*, in the North-West part of the World, and *advancing* the true *Catholique* Religion in its Room.

And lastly, *Dear Sons*, we would not have you any ways Discouraged, tho' the *Ghost* of our late Son the Lord *Stafford* should Appear to you, with, or without his Head, and should tell you Stories of *Hell* and *Purgatory*, and should tell you things like Truth, and Advise you to *Confess* and *Repent*, or at the Relation of any other foolish Apparitions, for we do Assure you by our *Infallible Knowledge*, and also by certain News returned by our several Grand *Curriers*, from *Hell*, *Purgatory*, and *Heaven*, which go and return every Twenty-Four Hours, that he is now in *Heaven*, and that the Keeper of the Registers both of *Hell* and *Purgatory*, have sent me Word, *No such Lord has arrived there this Seven Years*: And St. *Peter* sent me Word, *That he had by our Order sent him by our Grand Currier, admitted the said Lord* Stafford *some few Moments after his Decollation, and that he stayed not the saying of Six* Ave-Maries, *and one* Pater-Noster, *before he let him in, and bad him Welcome.* Therefore, I say, all those Ghosts and Apparitions, are all Lyes and false Illusions, raised by the *Hereticks* and their Assistant the *Devil*, to affright you into *Repentance* and *Confession* of the Plot; But, I say, beware of that, lest you go directly to *Hell*, instead of going to *Heaven*, for since I have the Keys of both in *my Hands*, and that the Keepers of the Gates of both Countreys, obey my Orders, you had better trust to me, who can infallibly Assure you of Salvation, let the *Scriptures* and *Hereticks* say what they will.

Once more therefore I incourage you, by this my *Letter-Messives* to be of good Heart, and to Drink our Health freely, and the good *Success* of our *Undertakings*, the Happy Issue of which shall advance you my Suffering Sons here, or if not, hereafter for a certain: Fare you well.

Signed with the Seal of the FISHER.

From our Palace in *Rome*,
this 16*th*. of *Jan*. New-Stile.

FINIS.

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